

Rainier Reach Goals & Policies: Updating the Neighborhood Planning Element of the Comprehensive Plan

This draft document shows how the revised Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan updates and weaves together the Neighborhood Plan Element derived from the 1999 Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan with the goals and policies that emerged from this 2011 Update process.

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Vision

Rainier Beach 2014: A Plan for a Sustainable Future contained the following vision.

“The Rainier Beach community wants to become a pleasant and safe neighborhood. Bringing this about is our challenge and responsibility. The attributes of our area, its diversity and natural beauty, need to be sustained. By setting forth a positive resident and business-friendly image, we can create an enjoyable, affordable, and prosperous community.”

” The community envisions a future where Rainier Beach will have an innovative, connected learning system that supports the integration of education into community life at all levels, and for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the residents and the attainment of sustainable and beneficial changes in the community.”

Through the update, the community identified broader additional vision language based in the shared value of strong, diverse communities, healthy people and families, and great places.

Rainier Beach is rich with cultural and physical resources. It has a thriving and interconnected community that contains diverse households. It is supported by strong social and cultural institutions and services that provide stability during changing times. The neighborhood provides access to resources necessary for people to live a healthful life. The neighborhood’s parks, opens spaces, roads, and other physical elements are healthy and provides for a healthy community.

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Land Use		
RB-G1 A diverse and vibrant neighborhood composed of pedestrian-friendly, transit-connected business districts and affordable and attractive residential areas.		RB-G1 A diverse and vibrant neighborhood composed of pedestrian-friendly, transit-connected business districts and affordable and attractive residential areas.
	Goal: For Rainier Beach the “town center” is an interconnected and vibrant set of places where the community comes together. These places reflect the diverse cultures, histories and traditions that collectively give Rainier Beach its identity.	<i>Goal: For Rainier Beach the “town center” is an interconnected and vibrant set of places where the community comes together. These places reflect the diverse cultures, histories and traditions that collectively give Rainier Beach its identity.</i>
RB-P1 Encourage the revitalization of the Henderson Street corridor as a conduit between the future light rail station at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and the commercial center along Rainier Avenue South.		RB-P1 Encourage the revitalization of the Henderson Street corridor as a safe and attractive conduit between the future light rail station at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and the commercial center along Rainier Avenue South.
RB-P2 Seek to promote transit-oriented development around Rainier Beach’s proposed light rail station at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and South Henderson Street.	Policy: Amend development regulations to enable residential and mixed-use development within ¼ to ½ mile of the light rail transit station.	RB-P2 Seek to promote transit-oriented development around Rainier Beach’s proposed light rail station at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and South Henderson Street.
RB-P3 Encourage mixed-use housing and commercial development in the “Beach Square” area bounded by Henderson Street to the north, Rainier Avenue South to the south and west, and Seward Park Avenue South to the east.		RB-P3 Encourage mixed-use housing and commercial development in the “Beach Square” area bounded by Henderson Street to the north, Rainier Avenue South to the south and west, and Seward Park Avenue South to the east.
	Policy: Expand the Urban Village to the west of the Rainier beach light rail station as illustrated in the 2012 Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update.	<i>Policy: Expand the Urban Village to the west of the Rainier beach light rail station as illustrated in the 2012 Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update</i>
RB-P4 Seek to preserve all single family zoned areas’ character. Encourage residential small lot opportunities within single-family areas within the designated residential urban village, and in the area within the residential urban village west of Martin Luther King Boulevard S., permit consideration of rezones of single-family zoned land to the		RB-P4 Seek to preserve all single family zoned areas’ character. Encourage residential small lot opportunities within single-family areas within the designated residential urban village, and in the area within the residential urban village west of Martin Luther King Boulevard S., permit consideration of rezones of single-family

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Lowrise Duplex Triplex (LDT), Lowrise 1 (L1), or Lowrise 2 (L2) designations.		zoned land to the Lowrise Duplex Triplex (LDT), Lowrise 1 (L1), or Lowrise 2 (L2), <u>or Lowrise 3 (L3)</u> designations. <u>Within ¼ mile of the rail station, and contiguous with Neighborhood Commercial (NC) designations, and where there are changes in elevation, park land, rights-of-way, or similar buffers, permit consideration of rezones of single-family or multifamily to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) designation.</u>
RB-P5 Encourage the City to support rezones within the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village for projects that: A. meet the overall community vision, B. promote redevelopment of underutilized and derelict sites, and C. result in pedestrian-friendly, well designed new buildings.		RB-P5 Encourage the City to support rezones within the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village for projects that: A. meet the overall community vision, B. promote redevelopment of underutilized and derelict sites, and C. result in pedestrian-friendly, well designed new buildings.
Transportation & Transit Facilities		
RB-G5 A community with safe streets, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly facilities, and an efficient, multi-modal transit system that connects Rainier Beach residents and employees to other parts of the Rainier Valley and the region.	. Policy 7A: Create a safe walking environment that supports access to shops, schools, services, places of worship, etc. that are necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle. A safe walking environment should be free from crime, protected from motorists, and pleasant.	RB-G5 A community with safe streets, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly facilities, and an efficient, multi-modal transit system that supports access to shops, schools, services, places of worship, etc. that are necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle, and connects Rainier Beach residents and employees to other parts of the Rainier Valley and the region. A safe walking environment should be free from crime, protected from motorists, and pleasant
RB-P17 Support the development of an Martin Luther King, Jr. Way at-grade light rail alignment, with Rainier Beach’s station located at South Henderson Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.		
	Goal: Integrated Transportation Improvements that Serve Community	<i>Goal: Integrated Transportation Improvements that Serve Community</i>
RB-P18 Improve residential streets to best serve residential neighborhoods.		RB-P18 Improve residential streets to best serve residential neighborhoods.
RB-P19 Seek to promote non-motorized travel throughout Rainier Beach by providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly along the Henderson Street corridor, near the future light rail station, and around the “Beach Square” commercial core.		RB-P19 Seek to promote non-motorized travel throughout Rainier Beach by providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists (as outlined in the Southeast Transportations Study, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans), particularly at the business node, along the Henderson Street corridor, near the light rail station, and around the “Beach Square” commercial core.
	Policy 11A: Continue the work as outlined in the RBCEC to “To ensure community transportation improvements are compatible with the environment, facilitate citizen access, and provide space for a pedestrian boulevard accommodating bicyclists, walkers, and transit riders per the Rainier Beach 2014 plan.”	
RB-P20 Explore a range of alternative transportation modes and solutions that would support the concepts of sustainability and environmental responsibility.		RB-P20 Explore a range of alternative transportation modes and solutions that would support the concepts of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

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RB-P21 Seek to strengthen provisions for code enforcement of transportation related violations such as speeding, and parking violations.		RB-P21 Seek to strengthen provisions for code enforcement of transportation related violations such as speeding, and parking violations.
	Policy: Coordinate among transportation improvements and with other infrastructure and programmatic actions (such as public art, parks, or economic development) to maximize the positive contributions transportation improvements can provide to “place making.”	<i>Policy: Coordinate among transportation improvements and with other infrastructure and programmatic actions (such as public art, parks, or economic development) to maximize the positive contributions transportation improvements can provide to “place making.”</i>
Housing		
RB-G2 A community that meets the housing needs of its economically diverse and multicultural population and provides opportunities at all economic levels.		RB-G2 A community that meets the housing needs of its economically diverse and multicultural population and provides opportunities at all economic levels.
	Goal: Retain and develop affordable (low and moderate income) housing, especially where such housing is accessible to transit.	<i>Goal: Retain and develop affordable (low and moderate income) housing, especially where such housing is accessible to transit.</i>
RB-P6 Encourage affordable and attractive multifamily development, particularly along Rainier Avenue South from South Holly Street to South Cloverdale Street, and as part of South Henderson Street revitalization efforts.		RB-P6 Encourage affordable and attractive multifamily development, particularly along Rainier Avenue South from South Holly Street to South Cloverdale Street, and as part of South Henderson Street revitalization efforts.
RB-P7 Seek to preserve Rainier Beach’s diversity and multicultural population by providing affordable housing home-ownership opportunities through programs and land use and zoning tools, including, where appropriate, rezoning.	Policy 10B: Continue providing housing affordable to a full range of incomes.	RB-P7 Seek to preserve Rainier Beach’s diversity and multicultural population by providing affordable housing home-ownership opportunities through programs and land use and zoning tools, including, where appropriate, rezoning.
RB-P8 Seek to promote townhomes and mixed-use buildings as the preferred development pattern for meeting the projected growth target within the residential urban village.		RB-P8 Seek to promote townhomes and mixed-use buildings as the preferred development pattern for meeting the projected growth target within the residential urban village.
RB-P9 Seek to address the causes of the perception of crime, the lack of personal safety, and the detraction from Rainier Beach’s community character (by addressing derelict residential properties and minimizing non-conforming and criminal uses).		RB-P9 Seek to address the causes of the perception of crime, the lack of personal safety, and the detraction from Rainier Beach’s community character (by addressing derelict residential properties and minimizing
	Policy: Increase opportunities for home-occupation, and live-work development that allows ground floor business (including small-scale retail and services where these would create positive activity) particularly in the station area and along S. Henderson St	<i>Policy: Increase opportunities for home-occupation, and live-work development that allows ground floor business (including small-scale retail and services where these would create positive activity) particularly in the station area and along S. Henderson St</i>
Capital Facilities		
RB-G6 A community with a variety of civic facilities, waterfront access, and a trail system that promotes the existing open space sites, and the enjoyment of new public spaces.		RB-G6 A community with a variety of parks and open spaces , civic facilities, waterfront access, and a trail system that promotes the existing open space sites, and the enjoyment of new public spaces.
	Policy: Support the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetland Project to convert the Parks Department’s Atlantic Street Nursery into an urban farm and wetlands restoration project.	<i>Policy: Support the Rainier Beach Urban farm and Wetland Project to convert the Parks Department’s Atlantic Street Nursery into an urban farm and wetlands restoration project.</i>
RB-P22 Seek to retain existing parks and recreation facilities, and strive to improve maintenance of these facilities.		RB-P22 Seek to retain existing parks and recreation facilities, and strive to improve maintenance of these facilities.
RB-P23 Recognize the importance of improving the Rainier Beach Community Center and South Shore Middle School to help foster a civic core.		RB-P23 Recognize the importance of actively programming, strengthening connections to the community and maintaining the Rainier Beach Community Center and South Shore Middle School to help foster a civic core.

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	Policy 4C: Create Gathering Places that Support Community Networks.	
RB-P24 Seek to promote the development of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to the commercial core, and bring pedestrians from the Rainier View neighborhood down to the lower Rainier Beach valley.		RB-P24 Seek to promote the development of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to the commercial core, and bring pedestrians from the Rainier View neighborhood down to the lower Rainier Beach valley.
	Goal: Connected Parks and Opens Space that Serve the Community	<i>Goal: Connected Parks and Opens Space that Serve the Community</i>
	Policy: Improve connections to and circulation within public spaces (South Shore k-8, Rainier Beach Playfield, Rainier Beach High School and between Beer Sheva and Pritchard Beach)	<i>Policy: Improve connections to and circulation within public spaces (South Shore k-8, Rainier Beach Playfield, Rainier Beach High School and between Beer Sheva and Pritchard Beach)</i>
	Goal: Use the arts and public art, in particular, to engage and express Rainier Beach’s cultural diversity.	<i>Goal: Use the arts and public art, in particular, to engage and express Rainier Beach’s cultural diversity.</i>
RB-P25 Seek to include art created by local artists in public works construction projects in Rainier Beach.		RB-P25 Seek to include art created by local artists, and that includes the input of ethnic and minority communities in exploring themes and locations, in public works construction projects in Rainier Beach.
RB-P26 Seek to ensure coordination between City departments, private service providers and volunteers for the maintenance, cleaning, and general landscape upkeep of Rainier Beach’s public streets and civic areas.		RB-P26 Seek to ensure coordination between City departments, private service providers and volunteers for the maintenance, cleaning, and general landscape upkeep of Rainier Beach’s public streets and civic areas.
Economic Development		
RB-G4 A revitalized commercial business core that attracts the patronage of local and citywide residents and employees through an attractive, safe, and clean built environment.		RB-G4 A revitalized commercial business core that attracts the patronage of local and citywide residents and employees through an attractive, safe, and clean built environment.
RB-P15 Seek to promote “Beach Square” as Rainier Beach’s hub of commercial retail activity.		RB-P15 Seek to promote “Beach Square” as Rainier Beach’s hub (including larger format) of commercial retail activity.
	Policy: Support and expand the existing character and diverse mix of small-scale, minority and immigrant-owned businesses nodes around Rainier Ave S and S Rose Street; Rainier Ave South and 56 th /57 th Ave. South; and the rail station.	<i>Policy: Support and expand the existing character and diverse mix of small-scale, minority and immigrant-owned businesses nodes around Rainier Ave S and S Rose Street; Rainier Ave South and 56th/57th Ave. South; and the rail station.</i>
RB-P16 Encourage partnerships among local housing providers, community development corporations, neighborhood and business organizations, and the City to assist with economic revitalization in Rainier Beach.		RB-P16 Encourage partnerships among local housing providers, community development corporations, neighborhood and business organizations, and the City to assist with economic revitalization in Rainier Beach.
	Goal: A strong local economy for Rainier Beach.	<i>Goal: A strong local economy for Rainier Beach.</i>
	Goal: Strong entrepreneurship that creates job and grows the local economy	<i>Goal: Strong entrepreneurship that creates job and grows the local economy</i>
	Goal: Sustainable wealth creation that provides individuals and families with the tools for: managing their money; making sound financial decisions; and building wealth.	<i>Goal: Sustainable wealth creation that provides individuals and families with the tools for: managing their money; making sound financial decisions; and building wealth.</i>
	Policy: Connect economic development with creating jobs for youth.	<i>Policy: Connect economic development with creating jobs for youth.</i>
	Policy: Prioritize development proposals that create jobs during the process to surplus Sound Transit properties south of the rail station.	<i>Policy: Prioritize development proposals that create jobs during the process to surplus Sound Transit properties south of the rail station.</i>
	Policy: Build on the asset of community diversity and consider the specific needs of minority and immigrant-owned businesses when undertaking economic development.	<i>Policy: Build on the asset of community diversity and consider the specific needs of minority and immigrant-owned businesses when undertaking economic development.</i>

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	Policy: Use streetscape improvements to build on the traditional strength and character of the small, locally-owned businesses that make up the town center.	<i>Policy: Use streetscape improvements to build on the traditional strength and character of the small, locally-owned businesses that make up the town center.</i>
Human Development		
	Goal: Strong schools with excellent programs and strong enrollment, producing exceptional students.	<i>Goal: Strong schools with excellent programs and strong enrollment, producing exceptional students.</i>
RB-G3 Education is integrated as an innovative and connected learning system into all levels of community life for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the community and the promotion of lifelong learning.		RB-G3 Education is integrated as an innovative and connected learning system into all levels of community life for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the community and the promotion of lifelong learning.
RB-P10 Create strong partnerships between Seattle School District and the City of Seattle to support capital and programmatic improvements for schools in the Rainier Beach area.	Policy: Continue work to build relationships with Seattle Public Schools. Increase collaboration between community and schools around youth education and culture.	RB-P10 Create strong partnerships between Seattle School District and the City of Seattle to support capital and programmatic improvements for schools in the Rainier Beach area.
RB-P11 Integrate the concept of life-long learning including education and job-related activities into the programs provided by the schools and by the neighborhood’s entire educational system.		RB-P11 Integrate the concept of life-long learning including education and job-related activities into the programs provided by the schools and by the neighborhood’s entire educational system.
	Policy: Seek to attract a community college facility that serves Rainier Beach community to offer local college level studies, and to establish connections to four-year colleges.	<i>Policy: Seek to attract a community college facility that serves Rainier Beach community to offer local college level studies, and to establish connections to four-year colleges.</i>
RB-P12 Encourage parents and adults in the community to work with school administrators to improve schools in the Rainier Beach area.		RB-P12 Encourage parents and adults in the community to work with school administrators to improve schools in the Rainier Beach area.
RB-P13 Seek to facilitate and improve the participation of parents and adults in the neighborhood schools by encouraging formation of active PTAs and by outreach to the non and limited English-speaking population of Rainier Beach.		RB-P13 Seek to facilitate and improve the participation of parents and adults in the neighborhood schools by encouraging formation of active PTAs and by outreach to the non and limited English-speaking population of Rainier Beach.
RB-P14 Encourage a community grass-roots approach to involve religious organizations and other influential organizations in community education issues.		RB-P14 Encourage a community grass-roots approach to involve religious organizations and other influential organizations in community education issues.
	Goal: Strong institutions and activities that engage and support Rainier Beach youth.	<i>Goal: Strong institutions and activities that engage and support Rainier Beach youth.</i>
	Goal: Ready access to healthy food.	<i>Goal: Ready access to healthy food.</i>
	Goal: Community-based and strategic implementation of update recommendations and other community projects.	<i>Goal: Community-based and strategic implementation of update recommendations and other community projects.</i>
	Goal: Neighborhood spaces that reflect Rainier Beach’s many cultures.	<i>Goal: Neighborhood spaces that reflect Rainier Beach’s many cultures.</i>
	Goal: Arts and public art, in particular, are used to engage and express Rainier Beach’s cultural diversity.	<i>Goal: Arts and public art, in particular, are used to engage and express Rainier Beach’s cultural diversity.</i>
	Policy: Work with existing community organizations to implement plan update recommendations.	<i>Policy: Work with existing community organizations and/or create new community organizations to implement plan update recommendations.</i>
	Policy: Plan comprehensively and strategically to ensure that the interrelationships between issues are leveraged.	<i>Policy: Plan comprehensively and strategically to ensure that the interrelationships between issues are leveraged.</i>
	Goal: A positive identity for Rainier Beach based on its unique strengths.	<i>Goal: A positive identity for Rainier Beach based on its unique strengths.</i>

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	Policy : Reframe Rainier Beach’s community identity as a thriving and interconnected community with diverse households and supported by strong social and cultural institutions and services.	<i>Policy: Reframe Rainier Beach’s community identity as a thriving and interconnected community with diverse households and supported by strong social and cultural institutions and services.</i>
	Goal: A safe Rainier Beach	<i>Goal: A safe Rainier Beach</i>
	Policy: Improve public safety when implementing any project or program within the community.	<i>Policy: Improve public safety when implementing any project or program within the community.</i>
	Policy: Build and sustain a positive relationship between Seattle Police and the diverse cultures in Rainier Beach.	<i>Policy: Build and sustain a positive relationship between Seattle Police and the diverse cultures in Rainier Beach.</i>